

NOTES ON PRIORITY OF  
FAMILY-GROUP NAMES IN COLEOPTERA

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## ABSTRACT

Attention is drawn to pioneering works on suprageneric classification by Latreille, Gyllenhal, and Leach, which have been overlooked often by coleopterists when citing the first use of family-group names. A list of all family-group names proposed for Coleoptera before 1816 is presented.

## INTRODUCTION

In the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature adopted by the XV International Congress of Zoology (London, 1961), the Principle of Priority, which had hitherto been confined to names of the genus- and species-groups, was extended to family-group names. Fortunately, although the application of this principle to family-group names had not been mandatory, it had been applied commonly for many years previously, in most groups of animals.

There is no reference which will enable the earliest use of every family-group name in Coleoptera to be determined quickly. Even the Junk Catalogue cannot be relied on to quote the earliest use of a name as such. In many cases, the earliest reference appears to refer to the first use of the name to denote a taxon including approximately the same range of subordinate taxa as recognised in the appropriate part of the catalogue. Thus the references are often taxonomic rather than nomenclatorial.

The most useful reference work for usage of family-group names of insects in general is Handlirsch (1925). The section on Coleoptera contains a few errors and omissions, and the publication is not generally available, at least in English-speaking countries. Handlirsch (1925: 676) referred to Rhynchophori Clairville, 1798, which predates Curculionites Latreille [1802]. Fortunately, reference to Clairville's book shows that his "Rhynchophori" is not based on a generic name (included genera being *Cossonus*, *Calendra*, *Cionus*, *Rhynchaenus*, *Curculio*, *Rhamphus*, *Rhinomacer*, *Platyrhinus*, *Attelabus*, *Anthribus*, and curiously but not surprisingly, *Mycterus*).

The only generally available work on Coleoptera which quotes authorship and date for family-group names is Arnett (1963). Unfortunately this book suffers from the same faults as the Junk Catalogue (i.e., the citation frequently does not refer to the earliest use of the family-group name in question). Most of the earliest family names are attributed to Leach (1815), but many of them had been used 13 years earlier by Latreille [1802].

This latter work was the first in which suprageneric family-group names for Coleoptera, based on generic names, and not merely plural nouns referring to members of a genus, were used (Code, Article 11(e)). The year of publication of Volume 3 (which contains the section on Coleoptera) is quoted as "AN X" (i.e., Year 10 of the French Revolution). This extended from 22 September 1802 to 16 September 1803 (with 5 additional festival days), but according to

Horn & Schenkling (1928-9), vol. 3 was published in 1802. Latreille's work laid the foundations of the higher classification of Coleoptera, and deserves much more attention from Coleopterists than it has usually received. Gyllenhal's and Leach's publications also made substantial contributions in this field.

In the following list, every family-group name used for Coleoptera up to and including Leach (1815) is noted, with the ending appropriate to its usually recognised rank today. Later usage is nearly always recorded in the Junk Catalogue. In the interests of brevity, some arbitrary decisions have been taken regarding rank (e.g., some of the subfamilies of Chrysomelidae are frequently treated as families). As all categories are co-ordinate, any family-group name can be given potentially any rank between superfamily and tribe, but for the purposes of this list, superfamilies have been ignored.

The application of the Principle of Priority to family-group names in Coleoptera will upset few established family-group names. The names Cantharoidea Latreille [1802] and Cantharidae, based on a misidentified type genus (*Cantharis* Müller, 1764 non Linnaeus, 1758 = *Lytta* Fabricius, 1775), should not have been used in the sense of the Junk Catalogue, Crowson (1955), and others for an entirely different group, for which the names Telephoroidea Leach, 1815 and Telephoridae have priority. As *Telephorus* Schaeffer, 1766 = *Cantharis* Linnaeus, 1758, and the names Cantharoidea and Cantharidae sensu Crowson appear to have won wide acceptance, yet another name change is not desirable, and a specialist on the group should refer the case to the Commission.

The family usually now known as Meloidae Gyllenhal, 1810, actually should be known as Horiidae Latreille [1802]. This also should be referred to the International Commission.

The family Bostrichidae frequently has been spelled Bostrychidae, but this latter spelling is wrong. The type genus is *Bostrichus* Müller, 1764 and subsequent emendations are "unjustified".

#### LIST OF FAMILY-GROUP NAMES OF COLEOPTERA BEFORE 1816

Current Name	Family or Synonymy	First Use as Family-Group Name
APHODIINAE	SCARABAEIDAE	Aphodida Leach, 1815:97
BLAPTINI	TENEBRIONIDAE	Blapsida Leach, 1815:101
BOSTRICHIDAE		Bostrichini Latreille [1802]:202
BRUCHIDAE		Bruchelae Latreille [1802]:192
BUPRESTIDAE		Buprestides Leach, 1815:85
BYRRHIDAE		Byrrhii Latreille, 1806:239
CANTHARIDAE	MELOIDAE	Cantharidiae Latreille [1802]:185
CARABIDAE		Carabici Latreille [1802]:80
CASSIDINAE	CHRYSOMELIDAE	Cassidiae Gyllenhal, 1813:434
CEBRIONIDAE		Cebrionates Latreille [1802]:97
CERAMBYCIDAE		Cerambycini Latreille [1802]:211
CERCOMATINAE	MELOIDAE	Cercomatida Leach, 1815:105
CETONIINAE	SCARABAEIDAE	Cetonida Leach, 1815:99
CHRYSOMELIDAE		Chrysomelinae Latreille [1802]:220
CICINDELINAE	CARABIDAE	Cicindeletae Latreille [1802]:77
CISTELIDAE	ALLECULIDAE	Cisteleniae Latreille [1802]:188
CLAVIGERINAE	PSELAPHIDAE	Clavigerides Leach, 1815:177

CLERIDAE		Clerii Latreille [1802]:110
COCCINELLIDAE		Coccinellidae Latreille, 1807:3:70
COPRINI	SCARABAEIDAE	Coprides Leach, 1815:96
COSSYPHINAE	TENEBRIONIDAE	Cossyphores Latreille [1802]:164
CRIOCERINAE	CHRYSOMELIDAE	Criocerides Latreille, 1807:3:43
CRYPTOCEPHALINAE	CHRYSOMELIDAE	Cryptocephaloideae Gyllenhal, 1813:582
CUCUJIDAE		Cucujipes Latreille [1802]:210
CURCULIONIDAE		Curculionites Latreille [1802]:195
DERMESTIDAE		Dermestini Latreille, 1807:2:3
DIAPERINAE	TENEBRIONIDAE	Diaperialae Latreille [1802]:161
DYTISCIDAE		Dyticides Leach, 1815:84
ELAPHRINAE	CARABIDAE	Elaphrii Latreille [1802]:81
ELATERIDAE		Elaterides Leach, 1815:85
ENDOMYCHIDAE		Endomychides Leach, 1815:116
EROTYLIDAE		Erotilenae Latreille [1802]:233
GALERUCINAE	CHRYSOMELIDAE	Galerucae Latreille [1802]:228
GEOTRUPIDAE		Geotrupini Latreille [1802]:142
GRAPHIPTERINI	CARABIDAE	Graphipterides Latreille [1802]:83
GYRINIDAE		Gyrinites Latreille, 1810:141
HELOPHORINAE	HYDROPHILIDAE	Helopherida (sic) Leach, 1815:95
HELOPINI	TENEBRIONIDAE	Helopii Latreille [1802]:176
HISPINAE	CHRYSOMELIDAE	Hispoideae Gyllenhal, 1813:448
HISTERIDAE		Histeroides Gyllenhal, 1808:74
HORIINAE	MELOIDAE	Horiales Latreille [1802]:182
HYDROPHILIDAE		Hydrophili Latreille [1802]:136
IPIDAE	SCOLYTIDAE	Ipsides Latreille 1807:2:19
LEMINI	CHRYSOMELIDAE	Lemoideae Gyllenhal, 1813:632
LEPTURINAE	CERAMBYCIDAE	Lepturetae Latreille [1802]:218
LUCANIDAE		Lucanides Latreille, 1806:1:241
MEGALOPODINAE	CHRYSOMELIDAE	Megalopides Latreille [1802]:227
MEGATOMINAE	DERMESTIDAE	Megatomida Leach, 1815:94
MELANDRYIDAE		Melandryida Leach, 1815:104
MELOIDAE		Meloides Gyllenhal, 1810:481
MELYRIDAE		Melyrides Leach, 1815:87
MICROPEPLINAE	STAPHYLINIDAE	Micropeplida Leach, 1815:90
MORDELLIDAE		Mordellonae Latreille [1802]:183
MYCETOPHAGIDAE		Mycetophagides Leach, 1815:110
NEMOSOMATINAE	TROGOSSITIDAE	Nemosomida Leach, 1815:110
NITIDULIDAE		Nitidulariae Latreille [1802]:131
OEDEMERIDAE		Oedemerites Latreille, 1810:216
PASSALIDAE		Passalida Leach, 1815:100
PAUSSIDAE		Paussili Latreille, 1807:2:234
PELTIDAE		Peltides Latreille, 1807:2:8
PHALACRIDAE		Phalacrurida Leach, 1815:116
PIMELIINAE	TENEBRIONIDAE	Pimeliariae Latreille [1802]:166
PRIONINAE	CERAMBYCIDAE	Prionii Latreille [1802]:212
PSELAPHIDAE		Pselaphii Latreille [1802]:239
PTINIDAE		Ptinioides Latreille [1802]:112
PYROCHROIDAE		Pyrochroides Latreille, 1807:141
SAGRINAE	CHRYSOMELIDAE	Sagrida Leach, 1815:113
SALPINGIDAE		Salpingides Leach, 1815:106
SCAPHIDIIDAE		Scaphidilia Latreille, 1807:2:3
SCARABAEIDAE		Scarabaeides Latreille [1802]:144
SCOLYTIDAE	IPIDAE	Scolitarii Latreille, 1807:2:273
SCYDMAENIDAE		Scydmaenides Leach, 1815:92
SILPHIDAE		Silphales Latreille, 1807:2:1
SPHAERIDIINAE	HYDROPHILIDAE	Sphaeridiota Latreille [1802]:135

STAPHYLINIDAE		Staphyliniae Latreille [1802]:124
TELEPHORIDAE	CANTHARIDAE sensu Crowson	Telephorides Leach, 1815:85
TENEBRIONIDAE		Tenebrionites Latreille [1802]:165
TILLINI	CLERIDAE	Tillides Leach, 1815:87
TROGOSSITIDAE		Trogossitarii Latreille [1802]:159

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